

Amendments to the specification:

On page 1, line 3, please amend the heading as follows:

Prior Art Background of the Invention

On page 1, please amend the first paragraph as follows:

In known wiper blades of the type described in the preamble to claim 1, the purpose of the support element is to assure as uniform as possible a distribution of the wiper blade pressure against the window, which pressure is exerted by the wiper arm, over the entire wiping field wiped by the wiper blade. Through an appropriate curvature of the unloaded support element - i.e. when the wiper blade is not resting against the window - the ends of the wiper strip, which is placed completely against the window during operation of the wiper blade, are loaded toward the window by the support element, which is stretched in this state, even though the curvature radii of spherically curved vehicle windows change with each wiper blade position. The curvature of the wiper blade must therefore be somewhat sharper than the sharpest curvature measured within the wiping field on the window to be wiped. The support element consequently replaces the expensive support bracket structure with two spring strips disposed in the wiper strip, as is the practice in conventional wiper blades (DE-OS 15 05 357).

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 1-2 as follows:

~~The invention is based on a wiper blade according to the preamble to claim 1.~~

In a known wiper blade of this the type known in the prior art (DE-OS 198 14 609), the support element has two spring strips, which rest in receiving grooves disposed in the two longitudinal sides of a rubber-elastic wiper strip. This wiper strip has a top strip, which is essentially rectangular in cross section, with receiving grooves for the spring strips of the support element (Fig. 13), and has a strip-shaped wiper lip, which performs the wiping function on the window. The top strip and the wiper lip are of one piece and are connected to each other by means of an intermediary strip so that opposing walls of the top strip and the wiper lip are spaced apart from each other and constitute supports for the wiper lip, which is always disposed in a so-called drag position during the reciprocating wiper motion. In practice, it has turned out that under certain conditions, the flow conditions in front of the window reduce the pressure of the wiper blade against the window. A reduction of the wiper blade height in order to minimize this disadvantage can be achieved – as demonstrated by the known wiper blade shown in Fig. 12 – by embodying the support element as a one-piece spring strip and attaching it, for example gluing it, to the top side of the top strip remote from the wiper lip. A glued connection of this kind can only adapt insufficiently to the harsh operating and environmental conditions – such as alternating stress, cold, heat, ozone influence, etc., – for the wiper blade.

On page 2, line 10, please amend the heading as follows:

~~Advantages~~ Summary of the Invention

On page 2, please amend the paragraph contained in lines 12-19 as follows:

In the wiper blade according to the invention, ~~with the characterizing features of claim 1,~~ the two spring strips are respectively disposed in one of the two existing groove-like constrictions of the wiper strip so that special receiving grooves are no longer required in the top strip of the wiper strip. This reduces the height of the wiper blade without requiring a problematic glued connection between the support element and the wiper strip. Because the width of the construction groove in a partial region is greater than the thickness of the spring strips, the wiper lip can always tilt into the required drag position during wiper operation.

On page 5, line 18, please amend the heading as follows:

Brief Description of the Drawings

On page 6, line 23, please amend the heading as follows:

Detailed Description of the Exemplary Preferred Embodiments